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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/707,266	12/02/2003	Tomas Kalender	P7330.3US	1265
30008	7590	09/20/2005	EXAMINER	
GUDRUN E. HUCKETT DRAUDT			BAUER, SCOTT ALLEN	
LONSSTR. 53			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WUPPERTAL, 42289				2836
GERMANY			DATE MAILED: 09/20/2005	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/707,266	KALENDER, TOMAS
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Scott Bauer	2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 04/23/2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "1" has been used to designate both "Power Amplifier" and "Converter". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement-drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "external switching

device (Claim 5)" must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niranjan et al. (US6680589) and further in view of Umemura (US 5243291).

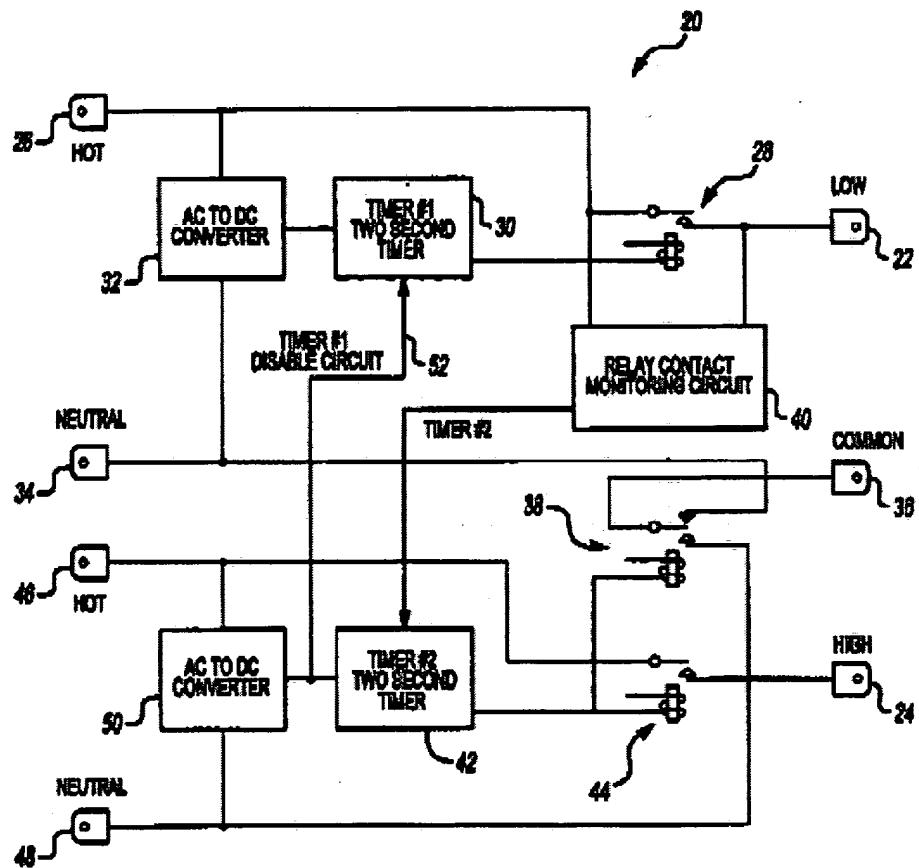
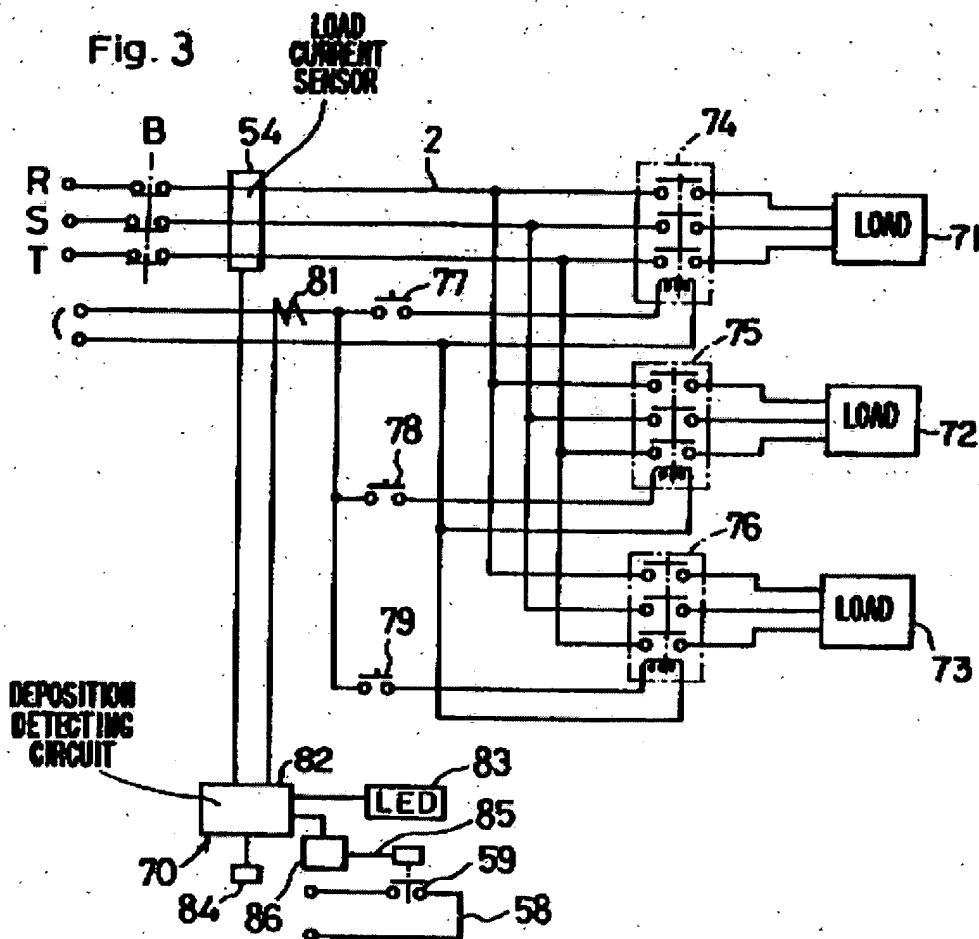


Fig-1



5. With regard to Claims 1 & 4, Naranjan et al. teaches a device that detects error and locking (20) of a switch (28) that sequentially connect motors (22) to a converter (32) that checks the switched-off state of a switch (28) before it sends switching signals to at least two switches (28 & 44) (column 2 lines 38-46). Naranjan also teaches connecting signal leads to the converter.

Naranjan et al. does not teach the monitoring of at least two switches. Umemura in Figure 3 teaches the use of a sensor to monitor the switched-off state of at least two switches prior to a switching action (column 5 lines 5-18).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Naranjan et al. with Umemura for the purpose of detecting malfunctions of relays to systems with plural loads (column 5 lines 5-8).

6. With regard to Claim 5, the switches of Umemura are external switching devices. In the above mentioned device, for error detection and mutual locking of switches, the signal leads are connected via an external switching device to the converters as taught by Umemura. The external switching device receives the switching signals from the converter.

7. With regard to Claim 2, Naranjan et al. teaches the circuit as stated above.

Naranjan et al. does not teach the use of a current measurement to monitor the switched-off state of at least two switches. Umemura in Figure 3 teaches the use of a current sensor to monitor the switched-off state of at least two switches.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Naranjan et al. with Umemura to measure the current through the switch instead of the voltage for the purpose of uncoupling the detection circuit from the driving current.

8. With regard to Claim 3, Naranjan et al. teaches the device as stated above. Naranjan et al. does not teach the monitoring of at least two switches or the sending of an error message when one of at least two switches is in a switching state that is different from a switching state preset by the switching signals. Umemura, in Figure 3, teaches the monitoring of at least two switches and the sending of an error message when a fault occurs. The message includes opening the power lines and lighting an LED (column 2 lines 32-39).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Naranjan et al. with Umemura for the purpose of indicating a faulty switch and protecting the loads and converter from fault conditions.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Bauer whose telephone number is 571-272-5986. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on 571-272-2058. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SAB



PHUONG T. VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER